

Good Evening Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian:

Five years ago I removed my two granddaughters from the Hartford School System because they were having problems in reading and math. I tried working with faculty and staff members, but the girls failed to receive the help they needed.

I called several programs that were either advertised on T.V. or by word of mouth. Financially, I could not afford them. One day I heard about the CREC Choice program. I called and made an appointment to talk to someone there. When I went in, I could tell right away I was in the right place to get the help my granddaughters needed. The CREC Choice program presented with a bridge to have my them crossover to a successful future. One of my girls attends the Simsbury school system and the other attends school in East Granby. There are teachers, counselors, social workers, and other supports to help them in every they have a problem. I started on this bridge with them to make sure they do not fall. Their teachers appreciate the fact that the parents, grandparents, or guardians travel with our children. We communicate constantly to make sure they have support on all sides. The funds for these programs help keep the bridge we are on strong so that we can reach the other side. Without the financial help needed to keep our bridge strong, the bridge will crumble and fall and our children along with the parents, grandparents, and caregivers will drown.

I never thought that I would see the day when a child's education would be compromised. If you choose to take away funding or choose not to continue expanding these programs so more children can benefit, I hope you are planning to have the children in our care come to this building so that you can tell them.

I don't have the heart to tell them that their program will be no more.

Thank you,

Linda Nelson